

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190769

FOLLOWING TOKYO 11993 SEMT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 9, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN,HWA, UR, EEWT

SUBJECT: JAPANESE CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH USSR

REF: MOSCOW 11113

1. MOFA SOVIET ECONOMY EXPERT OHTA CONFIRMED TO US INTEREST
RATE AND TERMS CITED REFTEL AND ADDED THAT TOTAL PAYBACK
PERIOD, INCLUDING GRACE PERIOD IS 8.5 YEARS. OHTA SAID THIS
WAS WELL WITHIN GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT LIMITS AND THAT IN
FACT SOVIET EAGERNESS TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT HAD PERMITTED
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GOJ TO BE RELATIVELY TOUGH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. (THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONCLUDED IN LESS THAN A WEEK).

2. OHTA ALSO TALKED ABOUT SEVENTH JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 12-15 IN TOKYO. HE SAID
MOST OF THE TIME WOULD BE SPENT REVIEWING PROGRESS OF
SIBERIAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

SOVIETS WILL PROPOSE A THIRD PAPER AND PULP PROJECT, FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO WRANGLE PORT AND A POWER PLANT FOR SAKHALIN. OHTA SAID JAPAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE LAST AND THE OTHER TWO ARE HARDLY EXCITING.

3. SIMILARLY MPTA WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANGES FOR EXTENSIVE RELATIONS IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD, DESPITE KEIDANREN CHAIRMAN DOKO'S ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT. (OHTA CYNICALLY NOTED THAT DOKO IS ALSO AN ADVISOR TO TOSHIBA, THE PRIME CONTRACTOR ON ANY NUCLEAR PLANT DEAL). THREE PROPOSALS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN SEPTEMBER: NUCLEAR PLANT COMPONENT EXPORTS, URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES, AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED PAYING AT LEAST PART OF THE PRICE FOR JAPAN'S NUCLEAR COMPONENTS WITH URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES. THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, HAVE FURNISHED VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ON EVEN WHERE THE PLANTS WOULD BE LOCATED AND THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE IS VERY COOL TO THE WHOLE IDEA. OHTA DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THE SOVIETS WILL BE ANY MORE FORTHCOMING THIS FALL. POSSIBILITIES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICIANS ARE SOMEWHAT HIGHER, BUT EVEN THERE, A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE OVERCOME. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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